

Encounter Magazine Of Britain to Be Sold To Illinois Publisher

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Prestigious Literary Monthly,
Once Funded by the CIA,
Is Set to Go to Carus Corp.

A WALL STREET JOURNAL News Roundup

Encounter magazine, a highly prestigious British literary and intellectual monthly that once was surreptitiously funded by the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency, will be sold to an Illinois publisher.

Carus Corp., a closely held company in La Salle, Ill., said it has agreed to take over the magazine from its three trustees: Melvin Lasky, its editor; Maurice Cranston, a professor at the University of London, and Edward Shils, a professor at the University of Chicago.

Terms weren't disclosed, but Mr. Lasky said the publication has been losing about \$20,000 a year on its monthly circulation of about 26,000. About one-third of the circulation is in the U.S.

Encounter was founded in London in 1953 by Irving Kristol and Stephen Spender and, for its first 10 years, its deficits were underwritten by the Congress for Cultural Freedom, which Mr. Lasky described as a CIA front.

In 1964, Cecil King, a British newspaper owner, took over a sponsorship that lasted until 1971. "The past three years we've been raising money from various private donors," Mr. Lasky said.

Throughout its history, however, none of its backers has ever tried to influence the magazine's editorial comment, Mr. Lasky insisted.

The monthly runs about 100 pages with "half a dozen new poems by new and established poets, a long short story and political, cultural and critical articles," the editor said.

Carus, the new owner, currently publishes a wide range of editorial products, ranging from Cricket magazine for children to the Monist, a scholarly quarterly of philosophy.